

Cassava production in Cambodia

Kaival Klakhaeng

Department of Agricultural Extension

Cambodia is one third of Thailand. The total area is 181,035 km² and is located between 102° -108° E and 10° – 15° N. The population of Cambodia is about 13 million. Cambodia has a tropical climate. The rainy season starts in mid April and continue to October. Average annual rainfall is about 1,800 – 3,000 mm. the mean temperature is about 23° – 32° C.

Agriculture is the fundamental sector of Cambodian economy. Small farmers dominate the agricultural sector of the country. Most of farmers are still poor. They earn money less 1 US\$ a day. They have many constraints in production activities and marketing. Rice is most important crop production in Cambodia. More than 85 % of cultivated area is planted to rice. Maize, mungbean, soybean, sesame, peanut and cassava are less important crops. Cassava planted area is about 20,000 hectares. The main area of cassava are in the provinces such as Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, Kampong speu, Kampong Thom and Battambang. The yield and production were high especially near Thailand border. There are some Thai cassava varieties in Cambodia such as Rayong 5 and Karsetsart 50. The farmers in battambang near Thailand border introduced high yielding varieties. Because of new opening the country there are small cassava market for industrial use. There are small number of starch factory and small animal feed industry. There were not chip dry yard. Farmers in many provinces have difficult to find the markets. Farmers near border send their product to Thailand or Vietnam

Cultural practices of cassava

The farmers in Battambang planted the cassava in wet season during April and harvested after 9 – 12 months according to market requirement. Some area farmers can

earn money from selling cassava, so they like to apply intensive cultivation. The farmers rotate cassava with soybean for improving soil fertility after 2 – 3 years of planting cassava. Normally cassava practices are 2 times of land preparation by tractor, 3 times weeding by man for control weed and harvesting by man at harvesting time in dry season.



The production cost show in table. The total cost of production around 3,100 baths/rai or 485 US\$ / ha. The cost of transportation was high about 25% of the total cost of production.

Table. The cost of cassava production in Battambang Cambodia

	Bath/rai
Land preparation	430
Steak	-
Planting	100
Weeding	975
Fertilizer	162
Harvesting	671
Transportation	750
Total cost	3,088
Yield (kgs/rai)	5,000

Constraints and problem for cassava production.

The biggest problem is marketing. Farmers think cassava production is high cost and low prices, difficulties in transportation(Road not good), lack of support and organization from government, lack of research and extension services. These are need to be strengthened that the rol of cassava can be more important in near future.



Source : Annual Report 2007. The Thai Tapioca Trade Association.